IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting <u>data in</u> bursts in a communications network, the method comprising:

    providing data for transmission;

    providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

    forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

    forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

2.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising:

    transmitting said first set of bursts via a first channel, and

    transmitting said second set of bursts via a second, different channel.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, comprising:

    providing a first parameter for indicating a timing offset between a first, earlier burst comprising at least some of said transmission data and a second, later burst comprising further transmission data;

    providing a second parameter for indicating a timing offset between a third, earlier burst comprising at least some of said FEC data and a fourth, later burst comprising further FEC data;

    forming said first burst including said first timing parameter and

    forming said third burst including said second timing parameter.

4.   (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein:

    said at least some of said transmission data comprises some of said transmission data; and

    said further transmission data comprises some more of said transmission data.

5.   (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein:

    said at least some of said transmission data comprises all of said transmission data; and

    said further transmission data comprises additionally provided transmission data.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 5~~,
comprising:

     said at least some of said FEC data comprises some of said FEC data; and

     said further FEC data comprises some more of said FEC data.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 5~~,
comprising:

     said at least some of said FEC data comprises all of said FEC data; and

     said further FEC data comprises some additionally provided FEC data.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 7~~,
comprising:

     dividing said first burst between a first set of packets;

     identifying each of said first set of packets with a first identity;

     dividing said third burst between a second set of packets; and

     identifying each of said second set of packets with a second identity.

9.   (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said first and second
identities are the same.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~8 or 9~~ 3, comprising:

     dividing said second burst between a third set of packets; wherein providing
said first timing parameter comprises:

     specifying a time until a start of a first one of said third set of packets.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~8 to 9~~ 3,
comprising:

     dividing said fourth burst between a fourth set of packets; wherein providing
said second timing parameter comprises:

     specifying a time until a start of a first one of said fourth set of packets.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claim ~~8 to 11~~ 3,
comprising:

     preparing service information; and

     including said second identify in said service information.

13.   (Original) A method according to claim 12, comprising:
        including said second identity in a descriptor; and
        including said descriptor in a table forming part of said service information.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 13~~,
wherein said transmission data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said
method comprises:
        placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a first set of
sections.

15.   (Original) A method according to claim 14, comprising:
        including said first timing parameter in at least one of said first set of
sections.

16.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, comprising:
        calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said first timing
parameter and
        including a respective timing parameter in each of said first set of sections.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 3 ~~to 16~~,
wherein said FEC data comprises a plurality of data packets, and said method
comprises:
        placing at least some of data packets in respective ones of a second set of
sections.

18.   (Original) A method according to claim 17, comprising:
        including said second timing parameter in at least one of said second set of
sections.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, comprising:
        calculating a timing parameter for each section based on said second timing
parameter and
        including a respective timing parameter in each one of said second set of
sections.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, comprising:

       providing a first parameter for identifying a burst comprising at least some of said transmission data;

       providing a second parameter for identifying at least one burst comprising FEC associated with said at least some of said transmission data;

       forming a first burst including said first identifying parameter and

       forming a second burst including said second identifying parameter.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claims 1, comprising:

       labelling at least one burst of said first set of bursts with an identifier; and

       labelling at least one burst of said second set of bursts with a corresponding identifier.

22.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~of~~ according to claim 1, wherein transmitting data is internet protocol datacasting over a digital broadcasting network ~~according to any preceding claim~~.

23.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer readable medium storing a</u> computer program comprising computer program instructions for causing data processing means ~~to perform the method according to any preceding claim~~

       <u>to provide data for transmission;</u>

       <u>to provide forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;</u>

       <u>to form a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and</u>

       <u>to form a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.</u>

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A system of transmitting <u>data in</u> bursts in a communications network comprising:

       providing data for transmission;

       providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

26. (Original) A network element comprising:

means for providing data for transmission;

means for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

means for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data; and

means for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

27. (Original) A multiprotocol encapsulator comprising:

an input for providing data for transmission;

a processor for providing forward error correction (FEC) data for said data;

a processor for forming a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and

a processor for forming a second set of bursts comprising FEC data.

28. (Currently Amended) A terminal for receiving data in bursts from a communications network comprising:

means for receiving a first set of bursts comprising transmission data and

means for receiving a second set of bursts comprising forward error

correction (FEC) data for said transmission data.